

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 03048

NODIS

DEPT PASS INFO KINSHASA PRETORIA AND LISBON

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS)
SUBJECT: SECRETARY VANCE MEETS WITH ANGOLAN DELEGA-
TION

1. SUMMARY: THE SECRETARY MET WITH ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN NEW YORK SHORTLY BEFORE THE OPENING OF THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE ON NAMIBIA JULY 27. THE MAIN TOPICS OF THE CONVERSATION WERE ZAIRE-ANGOLA RELATIONS, ANGOLA'S REFUGEE PROBLEM, POSSIBLE US ASSISTANCE TO ANGOLA, THE BENGUELA RAILROAD, AND THE QUADRIPARTITE VERIFICATION COMMISSION. END SUMMARY.

2. SECRETARY VANCE, AMBASSADOR YOUNG AND AMBASSADOR MCHENRY HELD A ONE-HOUR MEETING WITH ANGOLAN DELEGATION -- VENANCIO MOURA, VICE FOREIGN MINISTER, PASCOAL LUVUALU, MPLA SECRETARY GENERAL FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, AND ELISIO DE FIGUEIREDO, UN PERMREP -- AFTERNOON OF JULY 27. THE SECRETARY EXPRESSED THANKS TO ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT FOR HOSPITALITY EXTENDED TO AMBASSADOR MCHENRY DURING HIS VISITS TO LUANDA AND STATED HE LOOKED FORWARD TO CONTINUED EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE CLOSER RELATIONS BETWEEN ANGOLA AND THE US. ALSO THANKED ANGOLA FOR HELP IT AND OTHER FRONT LINE
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PAGE 02 USUN N 03048 01 OF 02 281940Z

STATES HAD GIVEN IN WORK FOR SOLUTION TO NAMIBIAN PROBLEM. HE ADDED THAT HE WAS ALSO PLEASED BY WHAT APPEARS TO BE PROGRESS ON THE ANGOLA-ZAIRE BORDER ISSUE.

3. AFTER THANKING THE SECRETARY FOR HAVING TAKEN THE INITIATIVE TO MEET WITH HIM AND REFERRING BRIEFLY TO MUTUAL COOPERATION ON NAMIBIA, LUVUALU STATED IMPROVEMENT

OF ITS RELATIONS WITH ITS NEIGHBORS WAS FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE OF ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT. ANGOLANS WERE MAKING HONEST EFFORT FOR BETTER RELATIONS WITH ZAIRE, BUT PROBLEMS REMAINED BECAUSE OF KATANGAN AND ANGOLAN REFUGEES AND BECAUSE ZAIRE CONTINUED TO AID UNITA AND FLEC.

4. ONCE A VERIFICATION COMMISSION WAS IN PLACE, IT WOULD FIND THAT ANGOLA HAD LIVED UP TO ITS COMMITMENT TO REMOVE REFUGEES FAR FROM THE BORDER, DISARM THEM AND PUT THEM INTO CAMPS. HE SAID ANGOLA "LOOKED TO FUTURE STEPS TOWARD NORMALIZING OUR RELATIONS WITH ZAIRE; ALL WE WANT IS FOR ZAIRE TO ADOPT THE SAME ATTITUDE."

5. THE SECRETARY COMMENTED THAT THE REFUGEE PROBLEM MUST BE PUTTING A STRAIN ON ANGOLA, SAID WE WERE EXAMINING WHETHER THERE IS ANYTHING WE COULD DO ON THIS MATTER THROUGH THE UNHCR. WE WERE ALSO PREPARED TO LOOK INTO THE POSSIBLE PROVISION OF FOOD AID. WE WERE AWARE OF DISTRIBUTION PROBLEMS AND PREPARED TO WORK WITH HUMANITARIAN AGENCIES TO HELP ALLEVIATE THIS PROBLEM -- IF, THAT IS, THE ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT WOULD CONSIDER SUCH ASSISTANCE USEFUL.

6. LUVUALU DID NOT RESPOND DIRECTLY AT THIS POINT, SAYING ONLY THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNHCR AND OTHER UN SPECIALIZED AGENCIES WERE ALREADY IN ANGOLA. LATER, THOUGH, AFTER AMBASSADOR MCHENRY HAD ASKED WHETHER THE REFU-

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PAGE 03 USUN N 03048 01 OF 02 281940Z

GEE PROBLEM WAS AN AREA OF ASSISTANCE THE US COULD EXPLORE, LUVUALU SAID, "I WILL LET THE COMPETENT AUTHORITIES IN ANGOLA KNOW AND OUR AMBASSADOR TO THE UN WILL BE INFORMED."

7. IN DISCUSSION ON THE REFUGEE PROBLEM, LUVUALU SAID HE HAD NO IDEA HOW LONG IT WOULD TAKE TO SOLVE IT. THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DIFFICULTIES ATTENDANT TO THE REFUGEE SITUATION COULD WELL BE LONG-TERM IN NATURE BECAUSE, HE SAID, MANY REFUGEES DO NOT WANT TO RETURN TO ZAIRE AND THE ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT COULD NOT EXPEL THEM. MOREOVER, IN ANGOLA THERE WERE REFUGEES FROM NAMIBIA, ZIMBABWE, ZAMBIA AND SOUTH AFRICA, AS WELL AS ZAIRE.

8. TURNING BACK TO QUESTION OF ANGOLA-ZAIRE RELATIONS, LUVUALU SAID THOSE WHO INFILTRATE INTO ANGOLA FROM ZAIRE TO DAMAGE THE BENGUELA RAILROAD HARM NOT ONLY ANGOLA, BUT ALSO OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES. ASKED BY THE SECRETARY WHETHER THE GREATER PROBLEM WITH REGARD TO THE RAILROAD WAS LACK OF PEACE OR PHYSICAL DAMAGE TO THE RAILROAD, LUBUALU REPLIED THAT IT WAS THE ABSENCE OF THE "POLITICAL WILL" OF ZAIRE TO STOP THOSE WHO WERE INFILTRATING INTO ANGOLA.

9. HE MAINTAINED THAT THE RAILROAD WAS OPEN AND OPERABLE INSIDE ANGOLA NOW. THE TECHNICAL PROBLEM THAT EXISTED WAS DUE TO THE DESTRUCTION OF THE BRIDGE SPANNING THE RIVER BETWEEN ANGOLA AND ZAIRE. THE ANGOLANS HAD NOT DESTROYED THE BRIDGE AND IT WAS NOT UP TO THEM TO PAY FOR ITS RECONSTRUCTION. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT IT WAS A "BI-NATIONAL PROBLEM." SECRETARY VANCE SAID THE US WOULD EXAMINE THIS MATTER AND SEE IF THERE WAS ANYTHING WE COULD DO TO HELP.

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PAGE 01 USUN N 03048 02 OF 02 281946Z
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 03048

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DEPT PASS INFO KINSHASA PRETORIA LISBON

10. MCHENRY ASKED ABOUT A SPUR LINE BEING BUILT IN ZAMBIA WHICH WOULD BYPASS ZAIRE. LUVUALU SAID THAT WAS AN ANGOLAN PLAN, BUT AT THIS STAGE IT WAS "JUST A PLAN." BUT ACCORDING TO HIM, A ROAD WAS BEING BUILT. HE STRESSED, HOWEVER, THAT THE BRIDGE WAS A SECONDARY PROBLEM; THE MAIN QUESTION WAS THE "POLITICAL WILL OF ZAIRE."

11. THE REMAINING FEW MINUTES OF THE CONVERSATION WERE DEVOTED PRIMARILY TO THE SUBJECT OF THE QUADRIPARTITE VERIFICATION COMMISSION. LUVUALU SAID THAT NETO HAD PROPOSED A REGIONAL COMMISSION COMPOSED OF ANGOLA, ZAIRE, CONGO AND ZAMBIA BECAUSE THE FOUR COUNTRIES CONSTITUTED A REGION WITH COMMON PROBLEMS. HOWEVER, ZAIRE HAD REJECTED THE IDEA. ASKED BY MCHENRY IF ZAMBIA WOULD BE WILLING TO PARTICIPATE, LUVUALU REPLIED THAT IF ZAIRE HAD AGREED TO THE PROPOSAL, "ZAMBIA WOULD NOT HAVE DISAGREED TO TAKE PART."

12. WITH THIS PROPOSAL DEAD, THE TWO GOVERNMENTS SETTLED

AT BRAZZAVILLE ON A COMPROMISE MEASURE TO ESTABLISH A
VERIFICATION COMMISSION TO MONITOR BORDERS. ZAIRE HAD
PROPOSED SUDAN AND RWANDA, ANGOLA PROPOSED CAMEROON AND
NIGERIA. MCHENRY THAN ASKED WHETHER IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE
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PAGE 02 USUN N 03048 02 OF 02 281946Z

LATER TO RESURRECT THE REGIONAL COMMISSION TO HANDLE LONG-
TERM MUTUAL PROBLEMS, AND HAVE IT AS WELL AS THE VERIFICA-
TION COMMISSION. LUVUALU SAID ONCE ZAIRE HAD REJECTED
THE ORIGINAL PROPOSAL, ANGOLA COULD NOT PERSIST IN ADVOCATING IT. TO DO SO WOULD "LEAD TO THE CHARGE THAT
ANGOLA IS TRYING TO IMPOSE ITS OWN PLAN."

13. THE SECRETARY SAID THAT IN ANY EVENT, IT APPEARED THE
VERIFICATION COMMISSION WAS OFF TO A GOOD START. LUVUALU
NOTED THAT "THE FUTURE AND THE OAU WILL TELL US" HOW WELL
THINGS WILL CONTINUE TO GO SINCE THE COMMISSION WILL BE
SUPERVISED BY THE OAU. MCHENRY STATED THAT, WITH RESPECT
TO THE SUCCESS OF PROGRESS TOWARD BETTER RELATIONS BETWEEN
ZAIRE AND ANGOLA, IT WILL BE HIGHLY IMPORTANT THAT THE
COMMISSION WORKS OUT WELL. FAILURE WOULD RESULT IN FURTHER
RECRIMINATION AND GREATER DAMAGE THAN NOT HAVING TRIED
AT ALL. IN RESPONSE LUVUALU SAID ANGOLA KNOW THERE WERE
"BASES IN ZAIRE." BUT THE VERIFICATION COMMISSION WOULD
FIND NO KATANGAN BASES IN ANGOLA, ONLY REFUGEES, INCLUDING
ZAIRE ARMY DESERTERS.
YOUNG

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